

Messages from the National Weather Service and Alabama Emergency Management Agency

The National Weather Service offices serving Alabama invite everyone to get prepared for severe weather. Please use this week to review or develop a family, school, or business emergency action plan. Even though Alabama has two distinct severe weather seasons, spring and fall, severe weather can and does occur every month of the year. So, we must be prepared at all times.

The dedicated people at the National Weather Service are committed to protecting life and property from severe weather through the close coordination of our friends in emergency management, the American Red Cross, and the media. We are here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, keeping a close watch on the safety of our neighbors.



That's what this week is all about...time to learn...time to review...and time to get ready! It is not *if* we will get more devastating severe weather, it's simply *when*!

*Jim Stefkovich, Meteorologist-in-Charge
National Weather Service, Birmingham*

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) joins Governor Bob Riley, county emergency managers, the National Weather Service, American Red Cross, and Alabama Department of Education each year in the campaign to educate people in our state about severe weather. Alabamians commonly face the threat of natural disasters caused by severe weather. This is why severe weather awareness is so important. Our goal during this week and beyond is to encourage everyone to learn how you and your family can prepare for severe weather. Planning ahead could save your life.



*Bruce P. Baughman, Director
AEMA, Clanton*

Special Thanks to Our Partners

To recognize their commitment to public service and safety, the National Weather Service extends a special thanks to those contributing to the 2006 edition of the Alabama Severe Weather Awareness Week Booklet:



Mercedes-Benz



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Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama is an annual public awareness campaign to draw attention to severe weather preparedness. Since its inception by the National Weather Service 31 years ago following the April 3-4, 1974, super-outbreak of tornadoes, this week has been observed each year as part of a continuing commitment to improve severe weather awareness. The National Weather Service has traditionally led this campaign, but additional partners have joined to improve and expand this effort to reach Alabamians with this important information.